

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-03 NSC-05 USIE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 /060 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 074973

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT:MBFR: THE COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT TO THE COMMON
CEILING

REF: A. NATO 1741 B. STATE 64853 C. MBFR VIENNA 144

1. WE BELIEVE BELGIAN TREATY LANGUAGE GOES BEYOND WHAT T"

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NECESSARY TO GIVE ASSURANCE TO EAST THAT COLLECTIVE COMM,T-

MENT IS A WORKABLE CONCEPT. SHOULD BELGIAHS DECIDE TO SET ASIDE THEIR APPROACH IT SHOULD FACILITATE ALLIANCE AGREEMENT.

2. WE DO NOT SEE ANY FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OUR FORMULATION (U.S. SUBPARAS A AND B) AND BRITISH FORMULATION (UK SUBPARA B) CONCERNING HOW THE COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT WOULD BE EXPRESSED. WE, LIKE THE FRG, WOULD PREFER TO USE "DIRECT PARTICIPANT" RATHER THAN "SIGNATORIES- SINCE THIS AVOIDS ANY QUESTION OF WHO WILL SIGN AGREEMENT OR OF WHAT FOF? THE AGREEMENT MIGHT BE. HENCE, MISSION IS AUTHORIZED, IF NECESSARY, TO ACCEPT UK SUBPARA B IF REVISED TO REFER TO "DIRECT PARTICIPANTS." IF US SUBPARAS A AND B ARE MAINTAINED WE WOULD NOW PREFER TO DELETE "IN AREA OF REDUCTION" FOLLOWING WORDS "FORCE LEVELS" AND INSERT "OF REDUCTIONS" AFTER WORD "AREAS" TOWARD END OF EACH SUBPARA. THIS AVOIDS

IMPLICATION IN SUBPARA B THAT EAST COULD TAKE ACTION IN WESTERN PART OF NGA.

3. LIKEWISE WE DO NOT SEE ANY MAJOR DIFFICULTY WITH EITHER FORM OF SUBPARA C. AND COULD ACCEPT EITHER. IF ACCEPTABLE TO OTHER ALLIES, WE SEE CERTAIN ADVANTAGES TO A MORE FLEXIBLE FORMULATION TO READ AS FOLLOWS: "EXCEPTIONS FOR ACCOMMODATING CURRENT MILITARY PRACTICES, SUCH AS ROTATIONS AND EXERCISES." THIS WOULD GIVE THE EAST A MORE COMPLETE IDEA OF THE EXCEPTIONS WE HAVE IN MIND THAN WOULD PHRASE "CURRENT MILITARY PRACTICES" ALONE. SHOULD THE EAST SHOW INTEREST, THE AHG COULD TRY TO ENGAGE THEM, AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME, IN A DISCUSSION OF EXCE, TIONS.

4. WE CANNOT AGREE TO INCL;DE THE FIRST SUBPARA OF BRITISH FORMULATION IN THE GUIDANCE TO THE AHG. THE QUESTION OF HOW THE COMMON CEILING IS CALCULATED NEED NOT BE ADDRESSED FOR THE ALLIANCE TO TELL THE EAST HOW IT PROPOSES TO GUARANTEE THAT CEILING, ONCE ESTABLISHED. YOU SHOULD OPPOSE SUBPARA A OF THE UK FORMULA.

5. AS TO REFERENCES TO FOLLOW-ON MACHINERY, WE MUCH
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PREFER US SUBPARA D TO UK SUBPARAS D AND E. MISSION IS CORRECT THAT WE WISH TO AVOID AS MUCH DETAIL AS POSSIBLE WHILE STILL GIVING EAST CLEAR SIGNAL THAT WE RECOGNIZE NEED FOR SOME MECHANISM TO HANDLE NOTIFICATIONS AND COMPLAINTS. BRITISH REFERENCES TO "JANUARY FIRST" AND THE "ILLUSTRATIVE SOLUTION" GO BEYOND WHAT IS NEEDED FOR PRESENT AND INVITE QUESTIONS WHICH WE WOULD PREFER TO AVOID UNTIL AFTER FULL CONSIDERATION IN THE ALLIANCE

OF FOLLOW-ON. WE COULD ALSO ACCEPT SUGGESTED LANGUAGE
CONTAINED MBFR 144 (PARA 1C) AMENDED TO REPLACE PHRASE
"DESIGNATE A SPECIFIED REPRESENTATIVE" WITH WORD
"ARRANGE."

6. MISSION MAY DRAW ON REFTTEL C AS NEEDED IN SPC
DISCUSSION. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, MILITARY POLICIES, COLLECTIVE SECURITY AGREEMENTS, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE074973
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TMCNAMARA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750114-0479
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750487/aaaadbyh.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ACDA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 NATO 1741, 75 STATE 64853, 75 MBFR VIENNA 144
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 APR 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BFR: THE COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT TO THE COMMON CEILING
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: NATO BRUSSELS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006